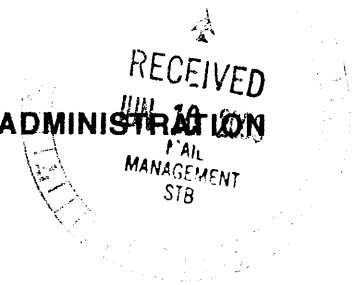


FEI-148

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JUNE 2, 2003

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ECONOMICS, ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20423
ATTENTION VICTORIA RUTSON
CHIEF
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS



RE: STB Finance Docket No. 34284 - Southwest Gulf Railroad Company -
Construction and Operation Exemption Median County, TX.

Dear Chief Review Analysis:

Thanks for the notice of hearing Thursday, June 12, 2003, to inform and receive comments from the public about the proposed project and the environmental review process. Due to the long distance of travel for me and my family to attend this meeting we have chosen to write a letter to you with our comments and concerns. All of us are involved in business or legal work as self employed individuals. Thursday nights are not available for us to travel the long distances to testify before you. Please forgive this informal way of expressing ourselves.

The proposal of SGR's to build and operate rail lines for the delivery of products from the quarry of Vulcan and any other future commercial endeavors that might develop because of the building of this rail road meets "With our FULL Approval!" For just a second I will digress to tell you of our small resumes.

T. Pichot- fifth generation 65 years old Texan born and raised on this land where the possible railroad will pass. Always looking for potential jobs and opportunity for our citizens. Trusting our officials like you to do the right thing in the application of the law in the areas that you outline in your thirteen points of interest in your outline of this hearing. Long in experience in the history of this country. The railroad of 1911 to Media Lake and the building and operation of it made jobs, new families to enter the community, development of new industries, and countless other assets that can be long winded in expression. The negatives and residue of this railroad are few if any. My 86 year old father was asked this question of what negative effects could he say was caused by the railroad to the Lake. He said "NONE!" The memory was that there was a fight for the ties for fencing when the railroad was removed. The spikes were picked up as souvenirs for the next ninety five years. PLEASE PUT IN THE RAILROAD AND LET THE PEOPLE AND COUNTY GROW.

Cindee Pichot, Attorney At Law, daughter of above and future owner of the land. Very interested and environmentally knowledgeable as she is currently the attorney in fact for three municipalities. Has trust in our Government officials to enforce the statutes on the books to keep us free from pollution and protect our waters for future generations.

PERRY PICHOT, Brother of Tom and co-owner of the land with dreams of opportunities for future generations. Five generations ago our Great Great Grandfather homesteaded these lands yes MIMKEN Saathoff left his beloved

home and came to Quihi, Texas in search of freedom, opportunity for his family, freedom of expression and freedom from tyranny. Our family's blood has been shed in many wars to preserve his dream.

The Railroad has met many vocal opponents, but few of these folks lived through the hardships of holding the land or experienced the many changes of both wet and dry times. The viewing of flood waters for days on the Quihi Creek or the seven year drought that caused all the water wells to be redug. As owners of some of the property involved we vote with a loud Yes, Let the Railroad come to Quihi, bringing job opportunities, and increasing the values of our land. to have lived off the wild game and wild fruit was an early and historical wonder but now with modern techniques control of the railroad is much safer than the fast moving many drivers with many of their personal problems lumbering down the roads of the county.

As to the noise of the train, it becomes music to your ears in a short time as does all sounds. The human body quickly adjusts to its surrounding environment. In my lifetime on two occasions, I've learned to live by a railroad track. Soon, the noise was not noticed at all.

As to the effecting on the environment, the damming up of the Quihi Creek will cause much more damage than any railroad will ever will, in my opinion. This act should have never been allowed, if in fact it was allowed and not just done with proper permits. Maybe some checking needs to be done by the environmentalists as well on this earthen dam that was placed at the mouth of the Elm, the Quihi and the great slough that comes out of the old George Heyen pasture. As a child when we were water bound I was pushed into the running rivers that join on the road that passes by the now Mr. Fitzgerald house CR365. The water was flowing deep all along this entire area. My father and my horse swam the distance from the corner of the road intersection (from CR450 to CR365 to the now paved road leading to Rio Medina from Quihi). In retrospect this certainly was a foolish thing for a father and his young son to do. It just happened that during rainy weather and the creeks rising the fences needed to be looked at, in so doing riding over to the Shop at Quihi to get a soda was also part of the activity. From there we would ride north to the other property and see about the fences up there since high water usually washed them out also and the cattle would be scattered to the neighbors places. This is and has always been a flood plain and whoever builds in the center of it, has simply built in the place where water can cause great damage during flood times. To blame other for high water is not correct.

For the Pichot family who now numbering in the twenties we say yes to the train and no to the trucks. Since we are Medina County people from the 1842 era and have been intermarrying for long periods we number in the thousands and have roots in more than thirty three ancestral names of the County. We care about the future of this wonderful paradise that our ancestors came to, fought for and continue to improve.

Sincerely Your,



Thomas E. Pichot

Business Owner

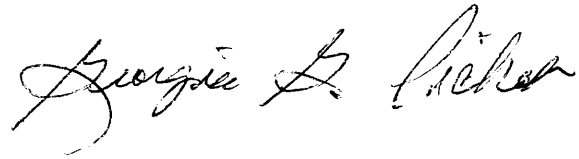
2205 Locust
Laredo, Texas 78043

956 722 7656 office or 956 723 3279

Georgia G. Pichot Reflexologist

2901 1/2 Bartlett
Laredo, Tex 78043

956 723 3933



Cindee Pichot Attorney At Law
P O Box 88
110 S. Main
Noble, Okla. 73068 405 872 9216

Glynn Rae Pichot Brandt Accountant
1112 Homestead
Fower Mound, Texas 75028 469 293 8040

Perry L. Pichot Business Owner - Home builder
10101 Millspaugh
Yukon, Oklahoma 405 946 5544

Suzanne Pichot Market Operator
Farmers Market El Reno St.
Okla. City, Okla 405 235 2815

Charles J. Pichot 86 years of Age- previous owner of property
909 27th Street having raised his family there
Hondo, Texas 830 426 2718

